

Town of Uxbridge Conservation Commission 21 South Main Street Uxbridge, Massachusetts, 01569 508-278-8600, x 2013 and x 2020



Posted by Uxbridge Town Clerk

# Conservation Commission MINUTES December 17, 2012 7:00 – 9:57 PM

Board of Selectmen's Room, Uxbridge Town Hall, 21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA
Please note some items may have been taken out of agenda order.

Conservation Com. Present: Russell Holden (Chair), Dave Lewcon, Lawrence Lench, Mike Potaski, Tracy Tibedo

Conservation Commission Absent: none

Commission Staff Present: Jennifer Steel, Conservation Agent

It being 7:00 pm, the meeting being properly posted, duly called and a quorum being present, Chairman Holden called the meeting to order.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- DEP #312-xxx, NOI, Bedrock Crossing, LLC at 79 River Road (Map 45, Parcel 1345)
  - o Applicant: Jason Tetrault, Engineer: Andrews Survey
  - o Proposal: Install piping for roadway drainage.
  - o **Update:** Engineer has stated that they will be submitting a new NOI and plans sometime this month, and will notify abutters at that time. Jennifer Steel will ask for a formal withdrawal at that time.
  - o Vote: Continue until new NOI is received. (Motion: Tracy Tibedo, Second: Dave Lewcon Vote: Unan.)
- DEP #312-941, NOI, Power Lines, on an existing right-of-way in the Town of Uxbridge.
  - Applicant: New England Power Company, Engineer: BSC
  - o **Proposal:** Construct, reconstruct, operate & maintain new overhead power lines, roads, and pads.
  - O Update: Donna Hardy has asked applicant for an update. No reply yet.
  - Vote: Continue hearing to 1/7/13. (Motion: Tracy Tibedo, Second: Dave Lewcon, Vote: Unan.)
- DEP #312-947, NOI, "Larkin Building" 104 East Hartford Avenue (Map 12A, Parcel 1474)
  - Applicant: Michael Robert w/ Mumford River Condo. Trust, Engineer: Andrews Survey & Eng., Inc.
  - o **Proposal Revised:** To place a 12" pipe in the canal under the building, and use flowable fill to secure the remainder of the canal under the building to allow for structural repairs of the building.
  - o Recusal: Mike Potaski recuses himself as representative for an interested property.
  - Presentation, Paul Hutnak, Andrews Survey and Engineering
    - Jennifer Steel, Russ Holden, and Dave Lewcon made a site visit and noted the flashboards, outfalls, extreme instability of building in the basement, nature of resource area under building.
    - Structural engineer has presented a solution to allow flow, should a future scenario have flow come through the canal.
    - Plans were submitted today showing a 12" pipe through a new concrete headwall at rear of building, to the property line with Hartford Ave., with the top of pipe at the bottom of the lintel stone at the rear of building. DPW could connect to pipe (and could secure permission to pipe through Strathmoreshire's land to the "plunge pool". Cofferdam will still need to be used, and the canal in the dry work area will be cleaned of accumulated sediment. Concerns of freezing and

clogging still exist, but flowable fill under building will insulate the pipe, and a trash-rack will catch floating debris.

- Further improvements in flow downstream could be achieved if:
  - Crown and Eagle flashboards were lowered (the canal could flow because of head)
  - Strathmoreshire dredged the "plunge pool" at the Peaceful Pond outfall

#### Frank Flynn, Attorney with Downing and Flynn, Working for Crown and Eagle

- Attorney Flynn provided an affidavit of representation signed by the aggrieved residents.
- Historically there has been flow. Flow seems to have been reduced starting roughly 1 year ago. This summer water in the canal was stagnant for the first time. Crown and Eagle residents don't want an impediment to the flow. Best solution is restoring the canal; Engineer Dick Balmer (Nobis) says that that would be workable.
- Flynn submitted at the meeting, a Dec. 17, 2012 memo that lays out the Crown and Eagle's legal arguments stating that a 12" pipe violates the following:
  - Riparian rights an upstream landowner cannot take or significantly divert water.
  - Three DEP appeals cases that address the following
    - Since canal is not in use as a mill canal, it is not a canal, it is a waterway and so has RFA.
    - Flow may not be decreased.
    - o DEP overruled its own regulations with regard to mosquito ditches.

#### Dick Balmer, Nobis Engineering, Working for Crown and Eagle

 Noted concerns about filling in flood storage capacity provided by the canal, and that by reducing flow through the building, overflow could flood the building and preclude downstream flushing.

#### Questions and Responses (noted) ensued

- Jon Michalek (Flynn Assoc.):
  - Stated that he did not know if any of the three cited cases are in historic mill complexes, but felt that cases seemed to apply, nevertheless. With regard to mosquito ditches and manmade canals noted in the test on page 4 of Adelaide Realty, DEP over-rode its own regulations because the waterway was not being used for its original purpose, it gave it riverfront protection. Their decisions draw on riparian rights.
  - Flynn would like time to respond to the question about historic mills exception (10.58).
  - Exhibit C, page 2, FN3: states that DEP <u>could</u> leave "the statutory exemptions for ... historic mill complexes ...".

### Paul Hutnak noted that:

- He would like a copy of Flynn's memo.
- It was disappointing that it has taken a month and a half to get these comments.
- Larking building residents haven't seen flow in years.
- No water flows to the Crown and Eagle because of the elevation of the "overflow" and sediment in the plunge pool, not because of the Larkin Building conditions.
- Peaceful Pond provides the baseflow to the downstream areas, not the canal under Larkin.
- 10.58(2)(a)(g) notes that man-made canals don't have RFAs.
- The Larking Building is part of a historic mill complex.
- An environmental study looked at Bank and Land Under Water.
- Flood Elevation was found to be 250.2, which is the water elevation in the canal.
- DEP has not commented on the project.
- Noted that a 12" pipe is what fits under the building. Their team can <u>try</u> to install a 24" pipe, but if engineering constraints prove insurmountable, they hope that a lesser diameter would be acceptable.
- A private resident controls the flashboards, so Crown and Eagle would have to contact him/her to change flashboards.

# o Neal Mitchell (structural engineer)

Sediment has fallen into canal (Larkin had to fill its parking lot, the Town has had to fill the road)

- Past floods have filled up to the floor of the building.
- The building is failing. The sill/beam has sagged 2-3 inches and the face wall has been bowing out further over the past months. The building may need to be condemned very soon.
- Engineering solutions are constrained in height and width.
- Tony Becthod, Community Builders, Associated with Crown and Eagle for 27 years
  - Canals always used to flow. BOTH canals are blocked off now. The Town used to dredge the "plunge pool".
  - Crown and Eagle had failures, too, and acted swiftly to repair the canal and secure the patio area and install a 24" pipe.
- Vote: Motion to close the hearing and issue standard OOC with the following findings and special conditions. (Moved: Tracy Tibedo, Second: Dave Lewcon, Vote: Unan . 4:0:0).
  - Proposed Findings
    - Flow regime is controlled by flashboards (cite elevations)
    - Permitting is to alleviate immediate threat to health and safety (cite problems)
    - This is historic mill complex.
    - RFA work under the building is not applicable because it is a historic mill
    - Bank finding no significant impact
    - LUW finding no significant impact
    - RFA spillway construction must comply
    - BLSF not applicable to the proposed work area
    - Permit requires installation of as large a pipe as will fit on top of parent canal material and under existing granite header stones (when jacked to permanent height), with a minimum allowable interior diameter of 12"
  - Proposed Conditions
    - Standard conditions
    - Require turf reinforcement mat in grassed swale
    - Require concrete splash pad to be canted towards the river to limit possible scour.
    - Require 50-lb-plus rip-rap be used in emergency spillway.
    - Require written proof of coordination with DPW
    - Require detailed construction sequence (stockpiling plans) be provided prior to construction for review/approval.
    - Require detailed dewatering plans be provided prior to construction for review/approval.
    - Require pre-construction meeting with Jennifer Steel and Russ Holden at a minimum, entire Commission if possible, to review and approve plans noted above.
    - Require that once the stream is drained and building is secured, Conservation Commission can conduct a site visit to re-evaluate proposed construction.
- o Return: Mike Potaski reinstates himself.

#### **Violations/Potential Violations**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Violations/Potential Violations**

#### Processing

- Minutes, December 3, 2012
  - o Vote: Moved to accept minutes: Larry Lench, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: 5:0:0.
- Documents to be Considered for Signature

- COC request: DEP #312-575, 40 Gary Lane, Pool and decking. A site visit indicated much more
  extensive construction, including a pool house and patio, and larger decking. Jennifer Steel will look for
  a relevant NOI/OOC, and if need be, contact the owner about an after-the-fact NOI.
- COC request: DEP #312-891, 947 Millville Rd, Septic system. All appeared to be in order. Moved to
  issue a full COC: Larry Lench, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: 5:0:0. Jennifer Steel will issue a letter re
  dumping near the wetlands, asking for rectification and cessation of future dumping.
- O COC request: DEP #312-857, 25 Brandy Lane, Septic, garage addition. All appeared to be in order. Moved to issue a full COC: Larry Lench, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: 5:0:0. Jennifer Steel will issue a letter re dumping near the wetlands, asking for rectification and cessation of future dumping. Jennifer Steel will issue Administrative Approval for pool removal and fence installation when asked.
- o COC request: DEP #312-174, 865 Quaker Highway, Flagg RV, Septic installation. File is missing. Site is stable. Moved to issue a full COC: Larry Lench, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: 5:0:0.
- COC request: DEP #312-471, 31 Giacamo Way, New house. Lawn has been extended relatively recently (based on aerial photography), close to possible wetland. Jennifer Steel will contact the homeowner to offer Russ Holden and Jennifer Steel making a site visit to delineate the wetland.
- 4 and 20 Albee Rd. Jennifer Steel drafted memos to clarify the desired circumstances on both properties and ensure consistency. Russ Holden will send his proposed edits to all. The issue will be discussed at next meeting.

#### Notifications/Updates

- Proposed Asphalt Plant, 586 Quaker Hwy: <u>Just</u> outside 100' buffer zone, outside flood zone.
   Stormwater discharge is almost into buffer zone. Doesn't appear to qualify as a "LUHPPL".
- o Living with Wetlands: Brochure delivered to David Genereux 12/10/12.
- COC request: DEP #312-811, 25 Albee Road, Hill Financial Services. Jennifer Steel spoke with contractor, noting that they needed to comply with the approved plans or submit an alternative for the Commission's review and approval.
- o COC request: DEP #312-916, 146 Mendon Street, Nicholas B. Deane. Jennifer Steel will meet with Nick (owner) to discuss closing out the file.
- Auger: Jennifer Steel will purchase one for \$194. Dave Lewcon donated a camera.

#### Keep on the radar screen

Down East subdivision, East St.: Jennifer Steel has asked Mark Anderson for an update.

# • Peaceful Pond, Pout Pond & Legg Farm

- Pout Pond
  - Volunteers are maintaining the gate and will do so until they tire or snow accumulates.
  - Dave Lewcon will investigate the possibility of having an ice cream truck come to the Pond
  - PPA
    - Held their 9th meeting since Labor Day
    - Are seeking a new Workamper so want placed an ad in Jan-Feb issue for \$82.50 (Motion to reimburse Dave Lewcon \$82.50 from the Pout Pond Revolving Fund: Dave Lewcon, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: Unan.
    - Moved to establish and market four tiers of sponsorship for a display on the bathroom side of the beach house (\$125, 250, 500, and 1000): Mike Potaski, Second: Larry Lench, Vote: Unan.

# • Recent site visits (other than for NOIs, RDAs, EOs and COCs)

- o 500 Mendon St Jennifer Steel issued Admin. Approval for the removal of 3 hazard trees
- o **170** Hecla St Jennifer Steel noted properly installed 25-foot buffer staking, <u>and</u> lots of recent activity. She will check the plans to make sure all activity is approved or out of Commission jurisdiction.
- o 16-18 Arapaho Lane Jennifer Steel met with developer AFCO Land Development Corp. (Domingos Afonso) and walked stormwater system. System was installed in 1988. System was flowing, stable, and clear. Recent sediment deposition was minimal. All seemed to be in order.

# • Future site visits to be conducted

- o COC request: DEP #312-471, 31 Giacamo Way. Russ Holden and Jennifer Steel -- to delineate wetland.
- Any other business which may lawfully come before the Conservation Commission.

ADJOURN 9:57 pm (Moved to adjourn. Moved: Larry Lench, Second: Mike Potaski, Vote: Unan.)



# TOWN OF UXBRIDGE CONSERVATION COMMISSION 21 SOUTH MAIN STREET UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01569

JXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01 508-278-8600, x 2013 or 2020



# **Conservation Commission Meeting Minutes**

Board of Selectmen's Room, Uxbridge Town Hall, 21 South Main Street, Uxbridge, MA

Respectfully submitted by Ms. Jennife	er Steel, Conservation Agent
Total	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Ryssell Holden, Chairman	Vice-Chair (vacant)
Land Lowor	a and Lines
David Lewcon, Treasurer	Lawrence Lench, Clerk
	Lucy Zibed
Michael Potaski, Member	Tracy Tibedo, Member
1/4/2013	_Date